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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 827

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to recognize Reverend Charles Edward Williams
of Nashville on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should recognize those who in their years of work have served God and the public good with extraordinary dedication and devotion; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Charles Edward Williams is one such diligent public servant who is deserving of praise and special recognition; and

WHEREAS, born in Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Island, Reverend Williams is the son of the late Lloyd and Miriam Williams; and

WHEREAS, this multifaceted man has experienced a variety of jobs in his estimable professional life including posts as a sailor, lumberjack, custodian, carpenter, insurance agent, camp director, consultant, teacher, counselor, and pastor; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2000, he will answer the tantalizing call of retirement after a distinguished career spent in devout service to his faith and his fellow human beings for 53 years; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Williams excelled as a student at Tennessee State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree and subsequently a Master of Arts; he also completed additional graduate studies at Duke University; and

WHEREAS, he received his theological education at the American Baptist Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Reverend William's academic interests have also expanded to teaching and counseling; he was a valued member of the faculty and administration at Washington Jr. High, Cameron High School, and is the Associate and Acting Principal of Hillsboro High School; and

WHEREAS, his 53 year-long ministry has included pastoral experiences at Nassau Methodist Church, Little Hope in Murfreesboro, Wright's Chapel in Cookeville, St. John in Springfield, Key Methodist in Hartsville, Braden in Carthage, Ballard in Stonewall, Bell Chapel in Castalian Springs, Dixon Memorial in Nashville, and Key Stewart in Gallatin; and

WHEREAS, in his most recent pastorates, Reverend Williams was instrumental in the growth and rebuilding of the church at Key Hartsville, where he still serves as the liaison pastor; and

WHEREAS, he has astutely guided the congregation at Key Stewart for the last 10 years, ensuring the growth of the church community and reaching out to others; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Williams is an advocate for the youth and believes in their spiritual growth; he was a strong supporter of a tutorial program and teen Bible Study where he serves with alacrity as a teacher; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable man, with the assistance of his faithful congregation, has created a nurturing environment and instilled a sense of strength and assurance in its members; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Williams has been extremely involved in the local ecumenical community and other community affairs and has remained active in vocation work; and

WHEREAS, a strong community advocate, he is committed to providing equality and a voice to the North side community; he actively participates in the City Council, the School

Board, and the County Commission meetings, as well as meetings with the Mayor and the local Police Chief and his staff; and

WHEREAS, in the true volunteer spirit, Reverend Williams donates his time at Volunteer State Community College in Developmental Counseling and was one of the founding pastors of Methodist in Actions, now known as the Shalom Zone; and

WHEREAS, he served with probity in the Tennessee Conference as the Vice Chair of the Board of Pension, the Board of Trustees, the Board of Missions, and of the District Committee on Ministry, and as the Chair of the Tennessee Conference Committee on Stewardship and District Chair of Stewardship; and

WHEREAS, he also served as a valuable member on the Council on Finance and Administration, the committee on Joint Review, the committee on Investigation, the Conference Council on Long Range Planning, the area Tennessee Memphis Conference Foundation, the Southeastern Jurisdiction Stewardship Committee, the District Board of Ministry, and as the Director of Camp Dogwood; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his countless contributions and accomplishments; Reverend Williams has received many honors including his selection as a Delegate to the National Association of Stewardship Leaders, a Delegate and President of the Black Methodist For Church Renewal, a Director for Bethlehem Centers, and as a Consultant of American Vocational Education Association; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Charles Williams exemplifies the spirit and dedication to family and community that is characteristic of a great religious leader and Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Reverend Williams feels fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife, Elease Spann Williams; and

WHEREAS, he is the proud father of a son and daughter-in-law, Carlos and Cynthia Williams, and is the devoted grandfather of one grandson, Alex Williams; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Charles William's adroit qualities include the uncommon ability to motivate others to fully realize their potential; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we praise Reverend Charles Edward Williams for his outstanding work and extend our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.